

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments made herein.

Claims 1, 3 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of (JP 63-174296). Traversal of this rejection is made for at least the following reasons. Neither Yoshimura nor JP 63-174296 teach or suggest a heating member that is mounted in a recess portion of a ceiling wall of the heating chamber, as required by claim 1. No heating member is shown in Yoshimura. In JP 63-174296, two heating members are shown (10, 18). Neither of these heating members are provided in a recessed portion of the ceiling of the heating chamber. Because neither Yoshimura nor JP 63-174296 teaches or suggests each and every limitation set forth in claim 1, the combination of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296 cannot render claim 1 obvious. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of JP 63-174296 and further in view of JP 62-100982. Claim 2 depends from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable over the combination of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296, as discussed above. JP 62-100982 does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296. Specifically, no heating member is shown in JP 62-100982. Accordingly, the combination of Yoshimura, JP 63-174296, and JP 62-100982 cannot render claim 2 obvious. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of JP 63-174296 and further in view of Noda et al. (JP 05-74568). Claim 9 depends from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable over the combination of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296, as discussed above. Noda does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296. Specifically, in Noda, a heater 3 is mounted above the ceiling wall 4 of the heating chamber 1. Heat passes into the chamber 1 via holes 6 provided through the ceiling wall 4. Accordingly, the combination of Yoshimura, JP 63-174296, and Noda cannot render claim 9 obvious. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 38340.

Respectfully submitted,
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